

REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 5-13, 15-17, and 19 are all the claims pending in the application. Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of claim 4 which has been canceled. In addition, claims 2-3, 5 and 7-11 have been amended to change "characterized in that" to "wherein" and claim 5 has been further amended to depend from claim 4. Further, claims 14 and 18 have been canceled and claims 15 and 19 have been amended to depend from claims 6 and 10, respectively.

Entry of the above amendments is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Furukawa (US 4,437,903) or JP 2000-355735 (JP '735).

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of claim 4, which has been indicated as being allowable. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the cited art fails to disclose, teach or suggest a weldable component of structural steel, wherein the chemical composition comprises, by weight:

$$0.10\% \leq C \leq 0.22\%$$

$$0.50\% \leq Si \leq 1.50\%$$

$$0\% < Al \leq 0.9\%$$

$$0\% \leq Mn \leq 3\%$$

$$0\% \leq Ni \leq 5\%$$

$$0\% \leq Cr \leq 4\%$$

$$0\% \leq Cu \leq 1\%$$

$$0\% \leq Mo + W/2 \leq 1.5\%$$

$$0.0005\% \leq B \leq 0.010\%$$

$$0\% < N \leq 0.025\%$$

optionally at least one element selected from V, Nb, Ta, S and Ca, at contents of less than 0.3%, and/or from Ti and Zr at contents of less than or equal to 0.5%, the remainder being iron and impurities resulting from the production operation, the contents of aluminum, boron, titanium and nitrogen, expressed in thousandths of %, of the composition also satisfying the following relationship:

$$B \geq \frac{1}{3} \times K + 0.5, \quad (1)$$

with $K = \text{Min}(I^*; J^*)$

$I^* = \text{Max}(0; I)$ and $J^* = \text{Max}(0; J)$

$I = \text{Min}(N; N - 0.29(Ti - 5))$

$J = \text{Min}\left(N; 0.5\left(N - 0.52 \text{ Al} + \sqrt{(N - 0.52 \text{ Al})^2 + 283}\right)\right),$

the contents of silicon and aluminum of the composition also complying with the following conditions: if $C > 0.145$, then $Si + Al < 0.95$; whose structure is bainitic, martensitic or martensitic-bainitic and also comprises from 3 to 20% of residual austenite; and the chemical composition also satisfies the following relationship: $\%Cr + 3(\%Mo + \%W/2) \geq 1.8$.

Further, it is respectfully submitted that the claims 2-3 and 5 are patentable over the cited art at least for the same reasons as claim 1.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

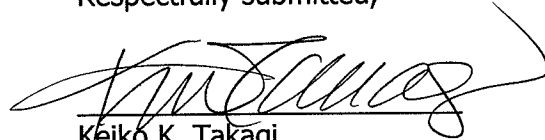
In addition, since claims 1-3 and 5 are allowable, it is respectfully requested that claims 6-13, 15-17 and 19 be rejoined since the claims depend from claim 1, and thus contain all the limitations of claim 1.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-3, 5-13, 15-17 and 19 is respectfully requested.

If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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23373

CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: June 9, 2009